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BULLER NOW IS ADVANCING

Within 14 Miles of Gen. White's Outposts at Ladysmith.

THE BOERS FORCED BACK

Heavy Fighting Has Taken Place of Which the War Office Is Yet Without the Particulars.

LONDON, Jan. 12, 4 a. m.—General Buller's twenty-eight words announcing his forward movement on Thursday is interpreted as meaning that he has passed around the western end of the Boer lines at Colenso and is now several miles behind them and within 14 miles of General White's outposts at Ladysmith.

The Boer forces a few days ago had troops with guns at Springfield where General Buller now dates his dispatch. These commands have been obviously dislodged, either by fighting or by maneuvering, the Boers retiring across the Tugela as General Buller advances.

From General Buller's dispatch, coupled with the fact that all official intelligence from the seat of war has virtually ceased since Monday, the deduction is drawn that important operations are in progress, as he cannot move far without going up against the Boer entrenchments.

The death list from malarial fever and dysentery at Ladysmith, averaging from eight to ten daily, are considered more serious than the 429 casualties of Saturday's fight, as they indicate a frightful unsanitary condition of the beleaguered town.

A letter from Ladysmith, dated December 7, says that even then 30 out of the 540 men in the battalion of which the writer is a member were sick with dysentery or enteric fever, and, according to a dispatch to the Daily Chronicle, dated January 8, the patients and attendants in Tombi camp, where the hospital is, then numbered 2,800.

BULLER HAS MOVED.

Now Occupies South Bank of the Tugela Facing Heavy Boer Entrenchments.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The war office this morning received the following dispatch from Buller, dated Springfield, January 11, 9:20 p. m.:

"I occupied the south bank of the Tugela river at Potgieter's drift this morning and seized the point. The river is in flood. The enemy is strongly entrenched about four and a half miles to the north."

Apart from the definite news that Buller has attempted a second time to cross the Tugela river, the only news is the list of casualties among the British officers in the fight at Ladysmith, January 6, showing 13 killed and 27 wounded. Among the latter was Lieutenant-Colonel William Henry Dick-Cunyngham, commander of the Second battalion of the Gordon Highlanders since 1897, who has since succumbed to his wounds. He was immensely popular everywhere, and his death will cause widespread sorrow.

The Buller movement obviously is of a flanking character of attack, but whether it is intended to push the advance home or whether his operations are only a feint to cover a frontal attack on the Boers at Ilangwana mountain remains to be seen.

Springfield, whence Buller's dispatch was sent, is 16 miles west of Frere. The last news from Springfield was that it was held by the Johannesburg corps under General Benjamin Viljoen, and that the Boers had big guns in position at Potgieter's drift, apparently six or eight miles north of Springfield, and across the big Tugela. The position of the drift and the point is regarded as of great importance.

It is reported here that Buller submitted his plan of campaign to Lord Roberts after the latter landed, and that Roberts sanctioned it. There is a belief here that General Hector MacDonnell will succeed Methuen in command of the British forces at Modder river.

EARL OF AVA SUCCUMBS.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—It is officially announced that the Earl of Ava has died of his wounds.

BOERS WELL FIXED.

Now Said to Have 100,000 Fighting Men With Abundance of Supplies.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—An apparently well informed correspondent of the Morning Post says: "The Boers' strength, originally 30,000, is now heavily augmented by the Cape Colonists and the enemy's fighting

forces maybe estimated fairly at 100,000 men and 200 guns.

The Boers are not compelled to guard their communications. Their grass is good, crops are growing, vegetables, cattle and sheep are plenty and game is abundant."

PRETORIA PRISON LIFE.

An English Officer's Account of How They Live and are Treated.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A dispatch to the Herald from Paris, says: "The Figaro publishes a long letter which an English officer, a prisoner of war in Pretoria has written to a member of his family.

The writer says: "We are completely cut off from all news of the outside world, and are not allowed to see the newspapers. We know, however, of Ladysmith being bombarded.

"Here we are prisoners of war and I assure you it is a pitiful condition. Sometimes I feel as if I were going mad and I wish I had been shot. We had hoped we should be exchanged or released on parole, but the Boer authorities do not appear to understand what parole means and seem to think we should not keep our word.

"As far as health goes, we are well and very well treated. We sometimes receive visits from those in command at Pretoria, the secretary of war, field cornets, chief magistrate and others. They are all very polite, but are under the firm impression that their prisoners are not well treated by us and they are convinced that our troops use "dam dum" bullets.

"At first we were nine officers, prisoners and about 150 men, but the other day our number was increased by 45 officers, almost all officers of the Gloucester regiment and Royal Irish Fusiliers, with Colonel Carleton, so that now we are about 54 officers and 1400 men.

"In front of the building there is a veranda on which we sit and watch the people go by. The government gives us canned beef, bread, and water to drink and from time to time lime juice.

"Once a week we get potatoes. Happily we are now allowed to buy whatever we please, so we have been able to organize a mess and our menu is reinforced by bacon, porridge, preserved vegetables, potted meats, pickles and tobacco.

"Each day we send out our orders and the things come later. Of course when taken prisoners we had only what was on our person, so we had to purchase many necessities, such as sponges, soap, tooth brushes, hair brushes and combs. The Transvaal government, however, has given in each of us an iron bedstead with mattress and pillow, a pajama suit, slippers, flannel shirt, pocket handkerchief, towel, socks, etc. We also received ready made suits, as our khaki uniforms were too much worn.

"We officials live in a large building that was formerly used as a school house. The men are still kept on the race course. We are certainly far more comfortable than we were on the race course for this is a stone building, while on the race course are nothing but zinc sheds. It is, however, not so warm as the race course prison. We are not so much annoyed by flies, but at night there are a good many mosquitos.

"We are guarded night and day by a strong police force, although none of us has any intention of trying to escape. We are surrounded by iron palisades. Behind the house there is a small grass plot on which a little zinc hut has been erected to serve as a kitchen.

"Here tents have been put up for servants. We were allowed to bring ten men from the race course to act for us. There are also tents for the guard and a zinc hut which does duty as a bath room. We rise at half past six o'clock and indulge in a cold bath.

"When I am dressed I walk around the building eight times which makes a mile. At half past eight we breakfast on porridge, bacon, sardines, butter, jams and tea and coffee. They give us the tea and coffee and bread and the rest we buy. After breakfast we generally read and smoke until lunch time, at 1 o'clock, when we get beer, bread, butter, jam and water. The afternoon seems very long. At half past four we have tea and at seven dinner.

"After dinner some of us play whist or chess, while others read. I generally go to bed at half past seven generally go to bed at half past nine o'clock. Our checks are provided. They are counter-signed by the senior officers and cashed."

HEARING COMMENCED.

Subsidy Bill Now Under Consideration by Senator Fryes' Committee.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The senate committee on commerce today began hearings on Senator Fryes' bill to promote commerce and increase the foreign trade of the United States and to provide auxiliary cruisers, transports and seamen for government use when necessary, the measure popularly known as the subsidy bill.

CONFIDENCE IN LORD ROBERTS

Feeling of Relief Over Change in South African Commanders.

THE SUFFOLKS' REVERSE

Misled by Order From Enemy Troops Retreat and Leave Their Officers Bearing Full Brunt of Fire.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says: "The fourth month of the war opens with Lord Roberts in command of the scattered British forces in South Africa.

The government has made so many mistakes that they might have credit for sagacity in sending to Cape Town a great soldier capable of commanding the confidence of the armies in the field and silencing criticism at home. While the situation has not been materially altered since he received the queen's orders, evidence has been supplied from the field operations that the soldiers are fringing and discontented and that changes of commanders are imperative.

The censorship has mutilated press dispatches and exercised restraint over war correspondents by mail, but it has not tampered with private letters from officers and men which are now finding their way into print.

The truth about Gataker's repulse and the retreat and slaughter of the Highland brigade at Magersfontein and the action of Hart's and Baron's brigades at the battle on the Tugela has come out with cumulative effect in short letters of soldiers published in London and the provincial press.

These revelations have produced a painful impression that the armies have not been led prudently and that the time has passed when generals who have blundered should be allowed to retrieve reputations when the soldiers have lost faith in them. General Buller stands in a better light than any other general because he offered conclusive proof of his caution and consideration for the lives of soldiers in ordering a retreat from Colenso when they were eager to continue fighting under hopeless conditions. General White alone has redeemed his reputation and rendered the relief of Ladysmith a duty of paramount importance.

The story of the Suffolk's reverse, which is told in detail by several agencies and correspondents today, is in a sorry repetition of Gataker's ambulance on a smaller scale. The Dutch were evidently informed by spies that a night march would be made and awaited in silence the attack, allowing the Suffolks to come almost within bayonet reach. Colonel Watson was making a speech to his officers when an appalling fire was opened on the Suffolks and he barely closed with the word "charge" before falling fatally wounded. There was a stampede down the hill when the cry "Company retire" was heard and the officers were left with one quarter of their force to fight hopelessly and surrender.

Only one officer escaped and the losses in killed and wounded and missing now exceed 100. This is final proof that night attacks when the British forces are best with spies are highly hazardous and that precautions should be taken to guard against treacherous orders from the enemy's side. General French has remained inactive since this minor disaster.

The clubs were filled with vague rumors last night that General Buller's second battle had been fought during the day, but there was no direct confirmation of them at a late hour. The silence which has been maintained in upper Natal since Sunday was unbroken save by mortality lists from fever at Ladysmith.

The military writers are urging in this morning's press the doubling of contemplated reinforcements and forecasting Lord Roberts' campaign, but a jaded public is weary of expert criticism and impatient for news of the right sort. The man in the street wants to have all the critics sent to the front.

The world of fashion rallied at the Haymarket theater yesterday at the concert organized by Princess Christian for the benefit of the Riflemen's Aid Society. It was a brilliant affair in which Albani and many other artists shared the burdens of the entertainment. A spiritual play was enacted by Frederick Harrison, Cyril Maude and Winifred Emery, and Julia Nelson appeared as "Brigitte" and sang the national anthem with stirring effect.

Lord Salisbury's reply to the American request for information respecting the seizure of breadstuffs at Delagoa bay is entirely satisfactory to neutral traders. The export of flour or other food from American ports to neutral

territory will not be interfered with unless the ultimate destination be apparent from the manifests.

American exporters under this official ruling can send foodstuffs without risk of seizure as contraband if they consign them to Portuguese merchants to Lourenco Marquez, although they ought naturally to take the precaution of shipping them under neutral rather than the British flag and of avoiding all traces of their ultimate destination in the clearance papers. Compensation will be made without doubt for the seizure of provisions which have not passed out of the hands of American owners nor been tainted with evidence in the ship's papers of ultimate destination for the enemy.

Close students of international law are confident that the American merchants will not be hindered in supplying the Dutch republics with foodstuffs if these precautions are observed they are also convinced that the precedent is a dangerous one for England. Lord Salisbury's ruling, if England and France are at war, will exclude all foodstuffs destined for the enemy, unless they are consigned to a neutral port, with papers untainted. Americans in event of such a war can ship flour and bacon to France via Belgium, but not to the United Kingdom.

If the experts understand Lord Salisbury's ruling, he is securing continental nations with neutral borders against starvation in war time, but not Great Britain, and meanwhile he is preventing neutral trading with the open market of Delagoa bay, where Boer agents will be free purchasers of whatever they want.

ENGLAND'S SECRET FOES.

She Is Not Fighting Boers, But Frenchmen and Germans.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 12.—J. G. Thurtell, a prominent resident of this city, an Englishman and first cousin to Lord Roberts, who is at the head of the English army in South Africa, formerly served in the English army and for several years held a commission under General Methuen in South Africa. He became thoroughly acquainted with the Boers and their country during his service on the English police guard and gives the following reasons for the defeat of the English:

"The English are not fighting the Boers," said he, "for if they were, and had been, Lord Methuen would never have been trapped as he was. They are fighting the army officers of the French and Germans. This aid is given secretly of course but is nevertheless effectual. The Boers are not capable of waging such a campaign as the one now in progress without assistance from those who understood the science of military tactics better than they do. Their method of fighting is that of the open field work and they are not shrewd in the science of successful warfare.

"I served under Lord Methuen in South Africa and well remember the conditions there at that time. Things are practically the same there now as they were then."

AUTOMOBILES IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A recently organized company will put into public service in the streets of this city next week 300 automobile carriages and 100 automobile omnibuses. Charge for cabs will be 25 cents a mile and 75 cents an hour.

LAWTON FUND OVER \$30,000.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—General Corbin announced today that subscriptions to the Lawton fund had reached \$30,101.

PROVINCE OF CAVITE TAKEN

Wheaton's Command Now Occupies Whole Rebel Stronghold.

ENEMY COMPLETELY ROUTED

Series of Brilliant Movements Carried Out by American Troops With the Most Satisfactory Results.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The war department today received the following cablegram from General Otis: "Manila.—I have continued the operations of Bates' command in South Manila, and the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-ninth regulars at Calamba, commanded by Bullard. On January 1, Bullard, with two battalions of the Thirty-ninth, attacked a force of insurgents in the vicinity, driving the enemy, capturing the town of Cabayuno, and the following day Bynan. The enemy's loss was thirty killed, and a large number wounded. Twenty prisoners and rifles were captured. Our casualties were three men slightly wounded.

"January 2 a body of three companies of the Thirty-seventh captured General Rizal, official papers and property three miles east of Los Baños. January 4 Long's detachment of the Ninth attacked the insurgents at Carmon and killed 25; no casualties. January 9 Bullard, with portions of the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-ninth regiments, attacked the enemy south of Calamba, whom he drove beyond Santo Tomas, killing 25 and capturing Rizal, Camalitan, one private killed, Captain Baker and Lieutenant Peña, of the Thirty-ninth, slightly wounded.

"January 11 Cheatham's company of the Thirty-seventh, supported by artillery, attacked the insurgents two miles west of Santa Tomas, driving them from that section. No casualties. Schwan's column, consisting of a squadron of the Fourth, one of the Eleventh cavalry and Thirtieth and Fifty-sixth infantries, and six Nordenfent guns, under Captain Van Dusen, seized Binan-Sitang, in Dangpaon, scattering the enemy, who were severely punished. Wheaton's column, three troops of the Eleventh cavalry, and the Fourth, Twenty-eighth, Thirty-eighth and Forty-fifth regiments, Astor and Kopy's batteries, have driven the enemy from all important points north of Siland Land, had heavy fighting, captured considerable public property, inflicting a heavy loss upon, and scattering the enemy.

"Schwan's column is now moving in Northern Batangas in a southerly direction. All Cavite provinces is occupied by Wheaton's command. A heavy loss to the enemy during the week in men, ordnance and other property, all operations being very successful."

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—General Corbin announced today that subscriptions to the Lawton fund had reached \$30,101.

Suggestions to Astorians FOR BOYS.

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